WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for capturing information for activity in a database, the

2   database including one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time,

3   the method comprising:

4   determining a plurality of times to sample the database;

5   at each of the each plurality of times, performing the steps of: ·

6   determining one or more active sessions from the one or more sessions

7   included in the database that are active at the time;

8   capturing information for each of the one or more active sessions; and

9   storing the captured information for each of the active sessions.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein capturing information comprises

2   capturing the information using an internal process in the database.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein at different times in the plurality of

2   times, the determined one or more active sessions include different sessions.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least a part of the stored capturing

2   information for a session provides a session history.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein capturing information for each of the

2   one or more active sessions is performed without using SQL.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   filtering the captured information based on which information is desired; and

3   archiving the captured information for a session if it is desired.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein filtering the captured information

2   comprises filtering the captured information based on a time the captured information was

3   captured.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the captured information includes at

2   least one of a username, a request syntax, and information on what activity the session is

3   performing at the time.

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1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein storing the captured information

2 comprises storing the information storing the information in at least one of temporary storage

3 and archival storage.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a view from the

2 captured information, the viewing indicating database activity.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   determining captured information that includes a session that has incomplete

3 information;

4   determining when the incomplete information is received; and

5   adding the received information to a sample for the session.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of times includes times in

2 a periodic interval.

1   13.   An apparatus for sampling database activity, the database including

2 one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the method

3 comprising:

4   a session activity determiner configured to determine one or more active

5 sessions of one or more sessions in the database at certain times over a time interval, wherein

6 the one or more sessions may or may not be active over a period of time; and

7   an activity sampler configured to capture samples of activity for active

8 sessions at the certain times, wherein the samples are captured by recording a sequence of

9 snapshots of information for one or more active sessions over time.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the activity sampler is located in

2 the database.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a storage device

2 configured to store the captured samples of activity.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the storage device comprises a

2 temporary storage.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising archival storage

2   configured to store information that is older than information stored in temporary storage.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a view creator

2   configured to create a view of database activity from the information stored in the storage

3   device.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a filter configured to

2   filter the captured samples to determine which information in the captured sampled should be

3   stored.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a process configured to

2   determine if a session includes incomplete information and to add the information to a sample

3   for the session when it is captured.

1   21.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the activity sampler is configured

2   to capture the samples of activity without using a query language.

1   22.   A method for capturing session activity in a database, the database

2   including one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the

3   method comprising:

4   determining one or more active sessions from the one or more sessions in the

5   database at certain times over a time interval; and

6   capturing samples of activity for active sessions at the certain times, wherein

7   the samples are captured by recording a sequence of snapshots of information for one or more

8   active sessions over time.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising storing the samples of

2   activity.

1   24.   The method of claim 23, wherein storing the samples comprises

2   storing the samples in at least one of temporary storage and archival storage.

1   25.   The method of claim 23, wherein information in temporary storage has

2   been captured more recently than information in the archival storage.

1   26.   The method of claim 23, further comprising filtering information in the

2 temporary storage to determine if the information should be stored in the archival storage.

1   27.   The method of claim 23, further comprising creating a view from the

2 stored information indicating database activity over a period of time.

1   28.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

2   determining captured information that includes a session that has incomplete

3 information;

4   determining when the incomplete information is received; and

5   adding the received information to the session.

1   29.   The method of claim 22, wherein capturing samples of activity is

2 performed without using SQL.

1   30.   The method of claim 22, wherein capturing samples of activity

2 comprises capturing the samples of activity using an internal process in the database.

1   31.   A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium

2 for capturing information for activity in a database, the database including one or more

3 sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the computer program product

4 comprising:

5   code for determining a plurality of times to sample the database;

6   at each of the each plurality of times, performing the steps of:

7   code for determining one or more active sessions from the one or more

8 sessions included in the database that are active at the time;

9   code for capturing information for each of the one or more active

10 sessions; and

11   code for storing the captured information for each of the active

12 sessions.

1   32.   The computer program product of claim 31, wherein code for

2 capturing information comprises code for capturing the information using an internal process

3 in the database.

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1   33.   The computer program product of claim 31, wherein at different times

2   in the plurality of times, the determined one or more active sessions include different

3   sessions.

1   34.   The computer program product of claim 31, wherein code for

2   capturing information for each of the one or more active sessions is performed without using

3   SQL.

1   35.   The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising:

2   code for determining captured information that includes a session that has

3   incomplete information;

4   code for determining when the incomplete information is received; and

5   code for adding the received information to a sample for the session.

1   36.   A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium

2   for capturing session activity in a database, the database including one or more sessions that

3   may or may not be active over a period of time, the computer program product comprising:

4   code for determining one or more active sessions from the one or more

5   sessions in the database at certain times over a time interval; and

6   code for capturing samples of activity for active sessions at the certain times,

7   wherein the samples are captured by recording a sequence of snapshots of information for

8   one or more active sessions over time.

1   37.   The computer program product of claim 36, further comprising:

2   code for determining captured information that includes a session that has

3   incomplete information;

4   code for determining when the incomplete information is received; and

5   code for adding the received information to the session.

1   38.   The computer program product of claim 36, wherein code for

2   capturing samples of activity is performed without using SQL.

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1   39.   The computer program product of claim 36, wherein code for

2   capturing samples of activity comprises code for capturing the samples of activity using an

3   internal process in the database.

Oracle Reference No.: OID-2003-212-01